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Theodore Roosevelt, an Intimate Biography. By WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1919. Pp. xx, 474. \$5.00.)

MR. THAYER'S long friendship with Colonel Roosevelt has made it possible for him to create in his new biography an air of intimacy and reality. The spirit of Roosevelt impregnates it, and is displayed with the literary skill and rhetorical appreciation that belong to the writer's craftsmanship. Like the biography by another Harvard classmate, Charles G. Washburn, it presents a "friend's outlined portrait" (p. xi), in behalf of which Mr. Thayer maintains that we have "fallen too much into the habit of imagining that only hostile critics tell the truth" (p. xii). It is much more comprehensive than Mr. Washburn's sketch, but is not to be compared in this respect with Mr. J. B. Bishop's work, now under way. In its concluding chapters it is a crusading document as well as a biography.

For most of their lives Mr. Thayer and Colonel Roosevelt belonged to different parties, the former being a stubborn mugwump of 1884, who repudiated party regularity, stuck to the issue of independent reform, voted for Wilson in 1912, and revolted against him in 1916. Their political differences only whetted their friendship, which became more intimate after 1909, and was based upon complete unity after the outbreak of the Great War. As passionate sympathizers with the Allies, and believing early entry to be our duty, they hated and despised the Wilson administration. In the last two chapters it is almost impossible to determine whether Mr. Thayer is writing Colonel Roosevelt's life or his own, so frequent are his adjectives and epithets: "variegated", "sanctimonious", "paroxysms of boldness", "ignoble depths", "jelly-fish nation", "infatuation for President Wilson", "vacillating policy", "war by rhetoric", "timidity and evasion". No reticence conceals the fact that Mr. Thayer belongs to the group that "loathes the Administration" and thinks of it as "this curse upon the country" (p. 385).

The biography is throughout an impressionistic picture rather than a work of scholarship. Mr. Thayer has not used any large amount of manuscript material beyond his own correspondence with Colonel Roosevelt and the papers he handled in writing the life of John Hay. His statements of fact would in some instances have been more accurate had he reread that work more carefully. His assertion that the French Canal Company "was glad to sell" its Panama rights for forty millions (p. 182) might have been stated differently after refreshing his memory of that company's long struggle for nearly three times the amount. There are other errors, or interpretations, that invite comment: Roosevelt was not a member of the National Committee in 1884 (p. 43); the available material hardly justifies a sweeping statement (p. 48) as to the character of James G. Blaine; Andrew Jackson did not coin the phrase "to the victors belong the spoils", and may have been better than a

"good old political freebooter" (p. 86); Roosevelt was not "reappointed" to the Civil Service Commission by Cleveland, since his office had an indeterminate term and needed no reappointment (p. 96); nor was Cleveland President in 1892; the mounted part of the Rough Riders regiment was not at Las Guasimas (p. 125); it was Kettle Hill, not San Juan, that the regiment captured on July 1, 1898 (p. 126); McKinley did not die with his tariff views unrevised and unquestioned (p. 169) but rather with a restatement fresh from his lips in his Buffalo speech of September 5, 1901; if Lord Alverstone's decision on the Alaska boundary was his own, it is misleading to speak as though Roosevelt's "brusque way" terminated the dispute (p. 177); Senator Hanna did not bag "a good many delegates" in 1904, and died not in March, but on February 15 (p. 306, 307); Judge Parker did not explicitly charge blackmail against Mr. Cortelyou (p. 307), but insinuated the opportunity for it; Joseph G. Cannon began his career in Congress in 1873, not 1863 (p. 343); Roosevelt's earnest canvass for Stimson for governor in 1910 is inaptly described as "no active part in politics" (p. 347); the decision to run again, which Colonel Roosevelt talked over with Mr. Thayer and Judge Grant on February 25, 1912 (p. 351), had already been reached, since it is printed with a date line of February 24. It is worth noting that Colonel Roosevelt did not fully share Mr. Thayer's dislike for the Payne-Aldrich tariff (p. 340), since he gave it at least a qualified approval. After the "'Once-a-week-to-Falmouth' order" (p. 430) President Wilson did not wait for the "interchange of two or three more notes", but broke off relations with Germany on February 3, 1917; what occurred on April 6 was the declaration of a state of war.

The character of Colonel Roosevelt is convincingly presented here; but Mr. Thayer adds little to our knowledge of his life.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON.

Fighting Germany's Spies. By FRENCH STROTHER. (New York: Doubleday, Page and Company. 1918. Pp. xiv, 275.)

The German Secret Service in America. By JOHN PRICE JONES and PAUL MERRICK HOLLISTER. (Boston: Small, Maynard and Company. 1918. Pp. xiv, 340.)

Throttled! The Detection of the German and Anarchist Bomb Plotters. By Inspector THOMAS J. TUNNEY . . . of the New York Police Department, as told to Paul Merrick Hollister. (Boston: Small, Maynard and Company. 1919. Pp. xviii, 277.)

THESE volumes, three variations on the same general theme, were written for the obvious purpose of helping to satisfy wide-spread popular curiosity concerning the methods and practices of German spies in America during the period of the Great War. No one interested in the subject should ignore an earlier book by Mr. John Price Jones (at the time of writing it on the staff of the *New York Sun*), entitled *America En-*